

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Ketchikan Gateway Borough****Project Title:**

Ketchikan Gateway Borough - South Tongass Fire Department Fire Station, Phase II

State Funding Requested: \$ 2,040,000**House District: 1 - A**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Funding to construct a new fire station for South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department in Ketchikan.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$2,282,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Local Funds	\$200,000	2008				
Other	\$42,000	2009				
Total	\$242,000					

*Explanation of Other Funds:**Members of the South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department will donate 1,200 man hours of unpaid labor (a \$42,000 savings).***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Item is completion funding for a new fire station for South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department in Ketchikan. Last year, Governor Palin signed legislation providing a Phase I \$100,000 grant for the South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department to start building a new fire station. Phase II, scheduled to start in 2008, will complete the new fire station. The new fire station will house a community meeting area and playground. In addition, there will be an on-duty force housed at the station for an immediate response. This is not available now.

The current facility located at 5.5 Mile South Tongass Highway has not been sufficient for a great number of years. Built in 1986 with no plans for future expansion or planning for growth in the future, this building will not meet the needs of the area we protect now. The second story office and meeting area is not ADA accessible. There is only one bathroom at the station and the kitchen facilities are inadequate. Training classes have been limited in the number of members that may attend due to our lack of space.

Phase I of this project has provided initial planning and design as well as clearing of the property. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough has granted in-kind the property valued at \$200,000. Members of the South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department will take time off from their regular employment to clear and prep the property for the building, donate 1,200 man hours of unpaid labor (a \$42,000 savings). This is an important infrastructure investment, is strongly supported by the community, and will improve emergency services and safety in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

Project Timeline:

FY09

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department & Ketchikan Gateway Borough

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Scott Davis, Cheif

Phone Number: (907) 225-1322

Address: 5591 South Tongass Highway KTN, AK

Email: stjodavis@kpunet.net

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department

The South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department is seeking funding for their new fire station located at mile 5.5 South of the City of Ketchikan.



Last year, the Governor signed legislation providing a Phase I \$100,000 grant for the South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department to start building a new fire station close to its present location. Phase II scheduled to start in 2008 will complete the new fire station.

STVFD volunteers are taking time off from their regular employment to clear and prep the property for the building.

The new fire station will house a community meeting area and playground. In addition, there will be an on-duty force housed at the station for an immediate response. This is not available now.

The already funded Phase I of this project has provided initial planning and design as well as clearing of the property. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough has granted in-kind the property valued at \$200,000. We anticipate the members of the South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department to provide 1200 man hours of un-paid labor. Depending on the technical level of the labor provided, their donation to this project is approximately \$42,000.

Last year our phase II funding request was for 1.7 million dollars and was based on construction costs prior to fuel increases. Due to rising fuel costs across the nation we have seen an increase in materials and labor on average of 20%. Therefore the estimated funds necessary for this year due to the rising fuel costs is 2.04 million dollars.

The current fire station located at 5.5 mile South Tongass has not been sufficient for a great number of years. Built in 1986 with no plans for future expansion or planning for growth in the future this building will not meet the needs of the area we protect now. The second story office and meeting area is impossible for handicapped members of the public to access due to the high number of stairs they would have to climb. There is only one bathroom at the station and the kitchen facilities are inadequate. Training classes have been limited in the number of members that may attend due to our lack of space!



We have seen an ever increasing number of housing starts in and around the new Fawn Mountain Elementary School. In addition, with the new Tongass Coast Aquarium in the final stages of planning we are rapidly approaching the point of not being able to effectively train our members to be effective nor able to house the necessary equipment to provide that needed protection.

Construction Costs

Infrastructure Preparation	60,000
Construction	1,560,000
Paving	420,000
Totals	2,040,000

Local Match to date

Property	200,000
Labor	42,000
	(242,000)

Without funding from the State of Alaska, it is highly unlikely the South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department will be able to provide an optimum level of service to the Ketchikan Area.

South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department

Impact from Tourism

Overview

The South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department is a fire and EMS department located south of the city of Ketchikan. Our response district extends from just past the USCG Base Ketchikan to the Whitman Creek bridge at about mile 9 South Tongass.

Our response areas are the entire road system on Revillagigedo and the entire road system on Gravina. We are one of the primary response agencies for Ketchikan International Airport.

Growth

This department has seen a growth of 800% in its membership correlating with the cruise ship industry peaking in Ketchikan in recent years. This is due to the higher demand placed on this department due to the hundreds of thousands of tourists coming to Ketchikan each year. The tourism industry is taxing on this fire district as evident in tourist related activities, storage and readiness of tourism transportation, facilities and the like, along with the non-seasonal protection we provide. While all of these tourists' port of entry is within the City of Ketchikan, they don't all stay in the city! Many travel on tours or related tourist activities within our service area.

Call volume is on the increase that can be directly related to the tourism industry through the location of the call or address of the patient. Indirect incidents that relate to the tourism industry are upwards of 40% total call volume with another 10% for locals providing seasonal and non-seasonal support or functions of associated tourist activities.

Other departments

Mutual aid calls are on the rise that relate to tourism through other emergency recourses from other departments "on scene" with a tourist having the need to call for mutual aid for other calls and a request to this department for its recourses.

Services

Tourism related locations in this district include but is not limited to Lodging, Daycares in the tourist season, Totem park-Saxman, Rainforest Sanctuary, Saxman Carving Center, Herring Cove Hatchery, Diving at Mountain Point, Sightseeing at Mile 5 South Tongass, Beaver Falls Cannery, Hiking Silvis Lake, Diving at homestead, Beachcombing at rotary beach, Charter fishing, and increased road traffic during these events.

While it is impossible to obtain an exact number of calls related to "tourism" for the past year with this department and its recourses, out of the 135 incidents to date that number is up from 112 in 2006 with 108 in 2005. In 1999 this department had a total of 81 incidents. Today's numbers show an increase of 66% since 1999 with a direct timeline of all of the above mentioned tourism activities. The new school in the district also has some impact, however the school has only been in place for a little more than a year showing only a 20% increase in call activity for the year. The remaining 46% can be attributed to tourism since our call volume drops off during the months when there are no cruise ships in town.

Training

This department has spent this year along over \$25,000 in the formation of a rescue team that was realized as a goal when the Rain Forest Sanctuary was started. Its mission is to provide the rescue of individuals trapped up to and including being trapped on the zip line at this facility. We continually train in Emergency Medical Services to provide a high level of service to the community including the tourists. We provide fire protection to all the buildings, vehicles and facilities that tourists visit every year. We train our members in Cold Water Near Drowning and Hypothermia to facilitate the most efficient response in EMS that can be provided. We provide this service at ANY given moment ANYWHERE in the Borough of Ketchikan and can be called out on a moment's notice!

To maintain these fire, rescue and EMS personnel at all times in a constant ready state is extremely expensive. Costs associated with equipment, apparatus, safety, regulatory compliance, training, wellness and the like are ever increasing. Not to mention our current state with inadequate facilities.

Facilities

The current fire station located at 5.5 mile South Tongass has not been sufficient for a great number of years. Built in 1986 with no plans for future expansion or planning for growth in the future this building will not meet the needs of the area we protect now. The second story office and meeting area is impossible for handicapped members of the public to access due to the high number of stairs they would have to climb. There is only one bathroom at the station and the kitchen facilities are inadequate. Training classes have been limited in the number of members that may attend due to our lack of space!

This facility has been determined to be one of the top priorities of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. From the beginning of this project the Assembly has wanted to replace the facilities. We are at an emergency state due to the lack of space! It won't be much longer until apparatus start breaking down from being outside in addition to the loss of equipment due to theft and vandalism with our outside storage.

Due to the increase in call volumes, and related activities, facilities are needed to train these members. Our current budget situation does not provide enough funding for new facilities along with providing Fire, Rescue and EMS services to visitors within our district.

Our department budget to maintain the CURRENT level of service is \$342,263. 40-46% of our budget to maintain the constant state of readiness can be attributed to Tourism and Tourist related activities.

It is estimate that the impact to this service area can be in excess of \$150,000 annually.

Currently, we are in receipt of only \$100,000 to build a fire station. We need another 2.04 million dollars to complete the project.



THE COMMUNITY OF KETCHIKAN

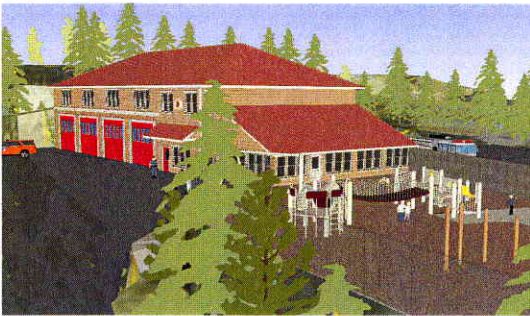


South Tongass Fire Department Fire Station, Phase II

The South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department [STVFD] is seeking funding for a new fire station located at Mile 5.5 South Tongass Highway.

Last year, the Governor signed legislation providing a Phase I \$100,000 grant for the South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department to start building a new fire station close to its present location. Phase II, scheduled to start in 2008, will complete the new fire station.

STVFD volunteers are taking time off from their regular employment to clear and prep the property for the building.



The new fire station will house a community meeting area and playground. In addition, there will be an on-duty force housed at the station for an immediate response. This is not available now.

The already funded Phase I of this project has provided initial planning and design as well as clearing of the property. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough has granted in-kind the property valued at \$200,000. We anticipate the members of the

South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department to provide 1,200 man hours of unpaid labor. Depending on the technical level of the labor provided, their donation to this project is approximately \$42,000.

Last year the Phase II funding request was \$1.7 million and was based on construction costs prior to fuel increases. Due to rising fuel costs across the nation we have seen an increase in materials and labor on average of 20%. Therefore, the estimated funds necessary for this year due to the rising fuel costs is \$2.04 million.

The current fire station located at 5.5 Mile South Tongass Highway has not been sufficient for a great number of years. Built in 1986 with no plans for future expansion or planning for growth in the future, this building will not meet the needs of the area we protect now. The second story office and meeting area is impossible for handicapped members of the public to access due to the high number of stairs they would have to climb. There is only one bathroom at the station and the kitchen facilities are inadequate. Training classes have been limited in the number of members that may attend due to our lack of space!

We have seen an ever increasing number of housing starts in and around the new Fawn Mountain Elementary School. In addition,



(Continued on page 2)



THE COMMUNITY OF KETCHIKAN



(Continued from page 1)

with the new Tongass Coast Aquarium in the final stages of planning we are rapidly approaching the point of not being able to effectively train our members to be effective nor able to house the necessary equipment to provide that needed protection.

Construction Costs		Local Match To-Date	
Infrastructure Preparation	60,000	Property	200,000
Construction	1,560,000	Labor	42,000
Paving	420,000		
TOTAL	2,040,000		(242,000)

Without funding from the State of Alaska, it is highly unlikely the South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department will be able to provide an optimum level of service to the Ketchikan Area.



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

344 FRONT STREET • KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901

OFFICE OF THE BOROUGH MANAGER

April 24, 2008

The Honorable Sarah Palin
Governor
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Ketchikan-Area Projects in the FY 2009 State Capital Budget

Dear Governor Palin:

As you review Ketchikan-area projects in the State Capital Budget, please keep in mind the following:

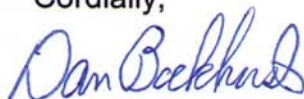
1. Ketchikan projects underwent a careful local review: For 30 years, it has been the custom in Ketchikan that proposals for legislative funding of projects must undergo a rigorous local review. For FY 2009, a coalition of more than 25 local organizations including the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, City of Ketchikan, City of Saxman, and others such as the Planning Commission, School Board, Native organizations, Chamber of Commerce, and seniors met on five occasions to review and ultimately endorse the projects proposed for funding through the FY 2009 State Capital Budget.
2. Ketchikan projects were also subject to independent review at the State level: Ketchikan projects included in the FY 2009 State Capital Budget have been independently reviewed by State officials. For example, funding for major maintenance on the Schoenbar School was ranked by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development as the most needy major maintenance school project in all of Alaska. In every case, Senator Stedman and Representative Johansen endorsed the projects included in the FY 2009 Capital Budget only after they independently determined that the projects served a vital public purpose.
3. Ketchikan projects focus on critical needs, particularly with respect to education, health, public safety, and economic development: Ketchikan projects included in the State Capital Budget relate to essential public services or to efforts to rebuild an economy that was dealt a terrible blow with the significant decline of the timber industry. In most cases, the tie between each capital project and core

services or economic development is evident (e.g., fire stations, school projects, shipyard development, and hospital expansion). In a few cases, the link may be less evident to those not well acquainted with the proposal. For example, the Capital Budget includes funds to complete the Fawn Mountain sports field. That facility adjoins our Fawn Mountain School and serves the physical education needs of students in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District. It also promotes general health among other users of the facility.

4. Ketchikan has committed local funds to proposed capital projects: Ketchikan has committed a significant level of local funding for projects included in the State Capital Budget. Additionally, as you weigh the level of local support for projects in the Capital Budget, please consider the fiscal burden already in place on the taxpayers of Ketchikan. For example, the cost of unfunded-State mandates imposed on the Ketchikan Gateway Borough government will amount to nearly \$11 million in FY 2009 (details are available upon request).
5. While the Legislature has been generous in terms of capital funding for FY 2009, it certainly has not been irresponsible: Many capital project needs in the Ketchikan were deferred during the lean years that Alaska faced since the mid-1980s. This year, however, the resources of the Alaska state government allow a responsible effort to address those deferred capital needs. While the Capital Budget amounts to some \$3 billion, the Legislature has also managed to save \$5 billion. In your State-of-the-State Address in January of this year, you emphasized the importance of sharing the State's wealth with communities. In the context of deferred capital needs and the \$5 billion in savings for FY 2009, the Capital Budget is a responsible action by the Legislature.

If you desire clarification of any of the points raised above, or if you would like additional information concerning any Ketchikan area project included in the FY 2009 State Capital Budget, please feel free to contact me.

Cordially,



Dan Bockhorst
Borough Manager

cc: Karen Rehfeld, Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Bert Stedman, State Senator, District A
The Honorable Kyle Johansen, State Representative, District 1



April 25, 2008

The Honorable Sarah Palin
Governor of the State of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Palin:

I am writing this letter to encourage your favorable consideration of the various capital projects for the City of Ketchikan that are funded in the FY '09 capital budget approved by the Legislature.

I know that, as a former mayor, you appreciate the significance of well-conceived capital projects for their positive impacts on the quality of life in the community.

Projects specific to the City of Ketchikan approved by the Legislature include:

- City of Ketchikan Fire Station No. 1 Replacement Project: \$5,328,216
- City of Ketchikan – Ketchikan General Hospital Surgical Suite Expansion: \$4,400,000
- City of Ketchikan – Port of Ketchikan Berths I and II Replacement Projects: \$3,000,000
- Knudson Cove Harbor Reconstruction: \$350,000
- City of Ketchikan – Design of Baranof Water Reservoir Replacement: \$150,000

I also want to note our support for two projects, which, while technically not City of Ketchikan projects, have received substantial financial contributions from the City due to the importance they play in helping the community in its economic recovery after the loss of the timber industry.

- Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority – Ketchikan Shipyard Power Generation & Infrastructure Improvements: \$3,000,000
- Oceans Alaska – Shellfish Industry Training Center: \$1,000,000

Needless to say, the City also supports appropriations approved for other local governments and organizations.

I want to briefly emphasize a couple of important points.

1. Extensive local public process: We had an extensive public process at the local level to determine our capital project priority requests that we forwarded to our legislators. We held a number of public meetings at which citizens of Ketchikan were given the opportunity to review and suggest projects. There was significant local participation.

From there the list of potential capital project requests was then forwarded to the City Council for its consideration and approval. In sum, all of our project requests, including those which were

funded, went through a public process and eventual consideration and prioritization by local government. In fact, all major appropriations approved by the Legislature for City of Ketchikan-specific projects were in the top 6 priorities for entire community, i.e., after consideration of projects submitted by other local governments and organizations.

2. Significant local funding: The three major City projects in the approved capital budget involve a significant level of local funding. The City anticipates fully matching the \$5.3 million in state funds appropriated to replace our 66-year-old central fire station. The City anticipates significant local funds being used to match \$4.4 million in state funds for the proposed surgery suite at Ketchikan General Hospital that will replace the existing 42-year-old surgery area; in the first two phases of the master plan we have financed in excess of \$21 million for capital improvements to the City-owned facility. The \$3 million appropriation for the Port of Ketchikan is designated for an estimated \$20 million project to replace old cruise ship berths in Ketchikan. The City has already expended or committed \$4.2 million in local funding for this project; we have also recently completed a \$38 million port improvement project that was 100% locally financed. In sum, I believe that the City is stepping up to the plate with our own funds to commit to these projects.

In closing I would like to thank you for your hard work on behalf of the entire State of Alaska. I hope that as you review the capital projects for the City of Ketchikan you will agree that the projects all serve a public purpose and that they are critical infrastructure projects which are deserving of state financial participation.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Weinstein".

Bob Weinstein
Mayor

cc: Karen Rehfeld, Director of OMB
Senator Bert Stedman
Representative Kyle Johansen